

for English troops, this homemade psychology, though inadequate, remained not altogether false.¹

The Englishman's character is his castle: inaccessible, lonely, aloof, he gazes out over this world that he has in the past so successfully despoiled; inward he seldom loob —there is a lack of illumination about that massive interior. And yet this frowning fastness has long proved itself a tower of strength—though men are beginning to ask uneasily whether so much instinct is not growing a little out of date before the march of modern science. The English regard the intellectual muddle they live in as a sort of TwiHght of the Gods, If they are not careful, it may prove so.

But turn to a typical French book—the atmosphere changes at once to that of an intelligent salon. There is a new world, the home not of earnest and lonely individuals, but of a society where thoughts and tongues run freely, Here are characters self-conscious in a different sense—not with a red embarrassment, or a solemn egotism, but with an amused and unashamed awareness of themselves; with an awareness, also, of others, of the importance of being clear and simple, not a pedant or a bore* For this society

^•Similarly when, after the War, the English railways were re*organised: a trifling case, yet typical. Instead of some logically simple re-naming, like 'Southern', 'Western', 'North-Western', 'North-Eastern', there emerged the strange quartette 'Southern', 'Great Western', 'London Midland & Scottish', 'London & Noith-Eastern'*

There was no point in calling one *Great\ when it
was not even the
greatest; in naming 'London' in the titles of two lines
when all four
served the capital alike; or in calling one railway
exclusively 'Scottish'
when Scotland is served equally by another* But the
English mind
is not tidy and remains unworried by such anomalies;
sentiment and
conservatism were stronger. When, however, it
comes to material
things like railway engines, it is the English ones^
nnliVe the French,
that are groomed and neat in their exterior as
racehorses*